



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



MICHAEL J. FITZMAURICE HONORED AT CORN PALACE STAMPEDE

Last week, during the four-day Corn Palace Stampede rodeo, community leaders dedicated the Friday evening performance as a salute to veterans.

Medal of Honor recipient Michael J. Fitzmaurice was the honored VIP. SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman had the honors of reading Fitzgerald's citation while Fitzmaurice and his wife were escorted around the rodeo grounds.

To hear more about Fitzgerald's heroic actions — view this You Tube site — <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUw1-hfRccc>.

Secretary Zimmerman said, "It was an honor to read Mike's citation and to be a part of this salute to veterans."

In recognizing the service of a veteran, the government uses the words, "selfless consecration to the service of our country in the Armed Forces of the United States of America." It is a grand phrase, and entirely true. Military life is built around sacrifice and complete devotion to America. Those that have lived that life, know the meaning of commitment to a greater cause. There is nothing they would not give to protect the people of this country.

Fitzmaurice's official Medal of Honor citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Sp4c. Fitzmaurice, 3d Platoon, Troop D, distinguished himself at Khe Sanh. Sp4c. Fitzmaurice and 3 fellow soldiers were occupying a bunker when a company of North Vietnamese sappers infiltrated the area. At the onset of the attack Sp4c. Fitzmaurice observed 3 explosive charges which had been thrown into the bunker by the enemy. Realizing the imminent danger to his comrades, and with complete disregard for his personal safety, he hurled 2 of the charges out of the bunker. He then threw his flak vest and himself over the remaining charge. By this courageous act he absorbed the blast and shielded his fellow-soldiers. Although suffering from serious multiple wounds and partial loss of sight, he charged out of the bunker, and engaged the enemy until his rifle was damaged by the blast of an enemy hand grenade. While in search of another weapon, Sp4c. Fitzmaurice encountered and overcame an enemy sapper in hand-to-hand combat. Having obtained another weapon, he returned to his original fighting position and inflicted additional casualties on the attacking enemy. Although seriously wounded, Sp4c. Fitzmaurice refused to be medically evacuated, preferring to remain at his post. Sp4c. Fitzmaurice's extraordinary heroism in action at the risk of his life contributed significantly to the successful defense of the position and resulted in saving the lives of a number of his fellow soldiers. These acts of heroism go above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit on Sp4c. Fitzmaurice and the U.S. Army.^[1]

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MORE THAN HALF OF SD GUARD'S FULL TIME FORCE TO ENDURE FURLOGHS

For 540 full-time employees of the South Dakota National Guard, the furloughs being enacted by the government sequester will take full effect on Aug. 2. The number represents 56 percent of the South Dakota Guards 958 full-time employees and they are among 48,300 Guard employees nationally who are affected by the furloughs being triggered by sequestration.

Known as dual-status military technicians, these Guard members are full-time federal employees and members of the units they serve. Their jobs are to organize, administer and train soldiers and airmen and to maintain critical equipment across the state so units are ready for prompt mobilization in times of war or state emergencies.

"I am very concerned about the impact to our troops and to the readiness of our units," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG. "This amounts to a 20 percent cut in pay for much of our full-time force, which has and will continue to ensure the Guard is ready to respond to the needs of our state and nation."

In order to keep the National Guard ready on a daily basis, it's these employees that are critical to sustaining the units until the traditional Guard members come in on a drill weekend. They take care of training requirements, operate airplanes, maintain vehicles and aircraft, take care of finances and payroll, and coordinate logistics, supplies and equipment.

As a result of the 2011 deal that reduced the federal budget by about \$1.1 trillion over the next 10 years, the furloughs will require these employees to take 11 unpaid days off between Aug. 2 and Sept. 30. The furloughs are to help chip away at the federal budget deficit.

Of the SDNG's full-time force, 370 Soldiers and Airmen will not be impacted by the furloughs. When the cuts were announced, President Barack Obama said that the uniformed services wouldn't be cut – which these Guard members are protected under. They were hired under a separate program called Active Guard Reserve (AGR), which is not covered by the sequester. Also not affected by the furlough are traditional Guard service members, who drill one weekend a month and two weeks a year.

But the dual-status military technicians, who are hired under federal guidelines, fall into a gray area. In May, it was announced that the Guard members would be furloughed. While both dual-status military technicians and AGR members perform the same or similar duties, their pay and benefits are different. Technicians are the only uniform-wearing military members who are being affected by the furlough and will give up more than a month's pay in lost wages. According to Col. Terry Ommen, the state's human resource officer, this equates to a loss in pay of nearly \$4,200 for every technician impacted by the furlough.

While the SDNG has deployed nearly 7,000 soldiers and airmen during the last decade to Middle East, and have more than 400 soldiers and airmen currently serving in combat, the National Guard Association, which represents retired Guard members and lobbies on issues affecting the Guard, is taking the fight to Capitol Hill. The group is supporting a bill by Rep. Steven Palazzo, R-Miss., who serves in the Mississippi National Guard, that would exempt dual-status technicians from furloughs.

Palazzo introduced the bill in March. It has picked up 47 co-sponsors from both parties, but so far it hasn't gotten out of the House Budget Committee.

"There is no question whatsoever that these furloughs will negatively impact the readiness of our units and will create a significant hardship on the household budgets of hundreds of hard-working and dedicated employees among our ranks," said Reisch. "I absolutely understand the need for our country to get its fiscal house in order. I just don't think doing so should target the livelihood of our men and women in uniform."

WALK FOR THE FALLEN

Walk for the Fallen

www.walkforthefallensioxfordfalls.com
Click "Contact" to send a message or volunteer!

When: Saturday, August 24, 2013

Walk Begins at 11:30 AM

Where: W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds

I-29 and W. 12th Street, Sioux Falls, SD

Walk begins near Pancake House

Cost: FREE!

Our Purpose: We will walk a mile honoring our South Dakota service members who have died as a result of war.

We will read the names of all of our Fallen Heroes we've lost since September 11, 2001.

Feel free to bring pictures of your Fallen Hero for our name badges.
(3"wide x 4"tall or smaller works best)



Banners in the Expo Building:

Several Gold Star Families and volunteers will be with the South Dakota Fallen Heroes Banners which will be displayed 10AM-5PM Saturday and Sunday.

Operation Freedom Bird:

We are honored to be a part of Vietnam Veterans of America's "Operation Freedom Bird 2013" at the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds! Freedom Bird Opening Ceremony starts at 10:00 AM at the Expo Building.

Freedom Bird Schedule: **Aug 24 10AM-5PM** (Free BBQ supper at 5PM)
Both days are FREE! **Aug 25 10AM-5PM**

About the "Run for the Fallen" Efforts:

Last year there were roughly 19,692 participants in 20 states, running and walking a combined total of over 41,567 miles. Help us continue to honor and remember our service members, bringing people and our community together, as we Walk for the Fallen!

Bring the whole family and stay after the walk for some great fellowship!

*For more information or to volunteer for a Banner watch time contact
Brad S. at 605-376-9881 or visit www.walkforthefallensioxfordfalls.com/contact.*

BLACK HILLS VETERANS MARCH

Black Hills Veteran March and Marathon

The Black Hills Veteran March and Marathon is a way to honor the sacrifices of the nation's service men and women. The 26.2 mile March takes place in the picturesque Black Hills National Forest on the Mickelson Trail.

Saturday, September 21st, 2013

Deadwood, South Dakota



The Categories include
Military: individual, team and heavy
Civilian: individual and team
Marathon: Male and Female
16 mile Mini-March: Male, Female and Team

For information:

www.blackhillsveteranmarch.com

BLACK HILLS VETERANS MARCH

The Black Hills Veteran's Honor March was conceived in 2002 as a way to honor the sacrifices of the nation's service men and women. The 26.2 mile march takes place in the picturesque Black Hills National Forest on the Mickelson Trail. This year's March will be held on September 21st.

The March, which is conducted under the auspices of the South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association (SDNGEA), grew out of an idea that originated from some South Dakota Army National Guard soldiers who had participated in the Bataan Memorial Death March. It was during the long ride home from White Sands, New Mexico that the idea of a commemorative march could be held to honor all veterans, and that the Black Hills would be a perfect place to hold such an event. Since the Bataan Memorial Death March takes place in late March-early April, the consensus was that this new event should be held later in the year.

On September 21, 2002, seven members of the Army National Guard traveled to Deadwood, SD and set out to reconnoiter the proposed march route and establish sites for water points, rest stops, and lodging requirements. Ted Deloy, Michael Jones, Matt La-croix, Ben Lamp, Jeff Nord, Ben Smetana and Mark Thomas were members of the recon team and laid the foundation for this event. The route today closely matches the original route from Rochford to Deadwood, the only change being the decision to end at the rodeo grounds as compared to main street Deadwood.

After completing the dry run in September 2002, the marchers compiled notes and ideas. Due to mobilization in 2003 the idea had to wait to be presented to the SDNGEA at the state conference in April 2004. The decision was made to have the inaugural March start in September 2004.

Since its inception, the memorial March has grown to hundreds of marchers from across the United States. Events are offered in Team Military and Civilian, Individual Military and Civilian, Heavy Military (with a 40lb Rucksack), Marathon and Mini-March and Team Mini-March.

If you have any questions, need additional information, or would like to be a sponsor, please contact Courtney Tyrrell at (605) 737-6103 or send an email to: courtney.r.tyrrell2.mil@mail.mil. More information can be found at their website at www.blackhillsveteranmarch.com.



GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS SPECIAL DAYS TO HONOR VETERANS

Governor Daugaard, in his support of South Dakota's veterans, has dedicated August 7 and 29 to honor South Dakota's veterans

August 7 has been proclaimed "Purple Heart Day." Many South Dakotans have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal as a result of being wounded while engaged in combat with an enemy force, construed as a singularly meritorious act of essential service. In his proclamation, Daugaard calls on all South Dakotans to honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's men and women in uniform wounded or killed by the enemy while serving to protect the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans.

Gov. Daugaard has proclaimed August 29 as "Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair." "This day is a special day to recognize the sacrifices and successes of those who have served in the Armed Forces, both past and present," said SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman. "This is a wonderful opportunity to say thank you for serving to a group of veterans who have not heard it often enough over the years."

Executive Proclamation State of South Dakota Office of the Governor

Whereas, The people of South Dakota have great admiration and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who selflessly served their country and this state in the armed forces; and,

Whereas, Veterans have paid the high price for freedom by leaving their families and communities and placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and,

Whereas, The contributions and sacrifices of the men and women from the state of South Dakota who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and,

Whereas, Many men and women have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces; and,

Whereas, Many citizens of our state have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal, as a result of being wounded while engaged in combat with an enemy force, construed as a singularly meritorious act of essential service; and,

Whereas, By South Dakota statute, August 7 has been designated as the day in which to remember and recognize South Dakota veterans who are recipients of the Purple Heart Medal:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim August 7, 2013, as

PURPLE HEART DAY

in South Dakota, and I ask all South Dakotans to honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's men and women in uniform wounded or killed by the enemy while serving to protect the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-third Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Thirteen.

Dennis Daugaard
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Jason M. Gant
Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State



Executive Proclamation State of South Dakota Office of the Governor

Whereas, Our great nation was founded on the belief that all Americans are created equal, and we are guaranteed inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and,

Whereas, The freedom we enjoy as Americans does not come without a price. It is our United States Armed Forces Veterans who have sacrificed to protect this freedom and our country from all enemies foreign and domestic; and,

Whereas, Thursday, August 29, 2013, is designated as Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron; and,

Whereas, The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Service Organizations, and the County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers will have an informational booth in the Veterans Building on Flag Avenue; and,

Whereas, Dedicating this day to honor and support our veterans for their service to our country will assist veterans with reintegration by informing them of available services; and,

Whereas, The nation and free world are eternally grateful for the contributions of American Veterans to the advancement of the cause of an honorable world peace:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim August 29, 2013, as

VETERANS DAY AT THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR

and, I further ask all South Dakotans to participate in the spirit of this day, remembering those who made the sacrifices, gave their lives, are disabled, still missing, or currently serving in harm's way, and those whose lives were interrupted by their service to our country in the armed forces.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-third Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Thirteen.

Dennis Daugaard
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Jason M. Gant
Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State



MEETING AT THE SOLDIERS CROSS

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 of Sioux Falls and DAV Department of South Dakota are selling limited edition prints of "Meeting at the Soldiers Cross," a print created by artist Ray Kelly.

The prints are 18" x 24", numbered and signed by artist Ray Kelly. The Cost:

Artist Print (300) - \$ 50.00

Print—(double mat & framed with black frame—\$200.

Print, - (double mat & framed with oak frame - \$225.

For more information contact: the Disabled American Veterans at 605-332-6866. Or email them at: davsd@midconetwork.com. Selected print numbers are available upon request. Funds raised through the sale of prints will be used for the DAV Hospital Transportation Network which provides FREE rides for veterans to the VA Medical Centers and VA Clinics for their appointments.



NATIONAL GUARD CAMP PARTICIPANTS VISIT STATE VETERANS HOME



Residents at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home had a wonderful visit with participants from the National Guard Camp.

FLAGS FOR FALLEN HEROES DISPLAY

The Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce will be displaying the South Dakota Fallen Heroes Banners Exhibit at the Belle Fourche Chamber and Tri-State Museum September 10-18.

Although it is not a requirement to have an American flag by each of the banners, Belle Fourche Chamber Director Teresa Schanzenbach has launched a fundraising campaign to secure 35 flags with stands for each of South Dakota's Fallen Heroes. These flags will become a part of the traveling "Fallen Heroes" display and will be available for all communities and organizations to use.

If you are interested in sponsoring a flag or contributing to this project, please call Teresa Schanzenbach at the Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce (605-892-2676) or send her an email at: director@bellefourchechamber.org.



FALLEN HEROES BANNERS



The Fallen Heroes Banners were recently displayed in Belle Fourche, the Days of 76 Rodeo and the Days of 76 Museum.

It doesn't matter where the exhibit is. South Dakota's soldiers never forget their fallen heroes!

On August 18, SDNG soldiers and airmen, stationed in Afghanistan will be participating in a "Run for the Fallen Heroes." Runners will have banners with the name of all of South Dakota's OIF/OEF/OND Fallen Heroes on their backs.

We salute you and thank you for honoring our heroes!!!!

Display Dates

- Aug 1-2 - American Veterans Tribute - Hot Springs
- Aug. 3 - Buffalo Chip - Sturgis
- Aug. 6-19 - SPC Dennis Jensen Memorial Ride - Whitewood
- Aug. 24-25 - Freedom Bird - Expo Building - W.H.Lyons Fairground - Sioux Falls
- Sept. 9-19 - Tri-State Museum/Belle Fourche Chamber
- Oct. 15-17 - Voc Rehab Conf on Veterans with Disabilities - Pierre Ramkota Inn
- Nov. 1-8 - Middle School Library - Yankton
- Nov. 11-13 - VFW - Deadwood



Upcoming Events

Jul. 26—Korean War Commemoration Display—SDNG Museum—Pierre
Jul. 27—Korean War Wreath Laying Ceremony at the SD State Capitol—Pierre
Jul. 31– Aug. 4—American Veterans Traveling Tribute—Hot Springs
Aug. 3—All Veterans Reunion—Hot Springs
Aug. 4—Freedom Poker Ride—Hot Springs
Aug. 21—SFVAHCS 12th Annual VA Show and Shine
Aug. 21—Sioux Falls Veterans & Spouses Job Fair—Elmen Center (2505 S. Grange Avenue) —Sioux Falls—10:00 am
Aug. 24—Walk for the Fallen—Sioux Falls
Aug. 24-25—Freedom Bird 2013—W. H. Lyon Fairgrounds—Sioux Falls 10:00 am—5:00 pm
Aug. 26-28—VSO Annual Benefits School—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre
Aug. 29—Salute to Veterans and Military Personnel Day at the SD State Fair
Aug. 31—DAV/727th Poker Run—Brookings Armory—11:00 am
Sep. 11—Stand Down—Wagner
Sep. 13—Stand Down Watertown
Sep. 20—Stand Down—Sioux Falls—VFW Post 628 (3601 S. Minnesota Ave.) 8:00 am—3:00 pm
Sept. 21—Black Hills Veterans March—Deadwood
Sept. 24—Stand Down—Aberdeen
Sept. 28-29—American Legion Golf Tournament—Webster
Oct. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
Dec. 15—Wreaths Across America Ceremony—Black Hills National Cemetery—10:00 am

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